

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 AEC-11 IO-14 OIC-04 OMB-01

SAM-01 DRC-01 /152 W

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P R 291930Z MAY 74

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0021

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0013

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: ORAL REPORT TO THE NAC

FOLLOWING ARE THE TALKING POINTS APPROVED BY THE
AHG ON 29 MAY FOR USE DURING ORAL BRIEFING OF THE
NAC BY THE CANADIAN REP, ACCOMPANIED BY DANISH
AND NETHERLANDS REPS, ON 31 MAY.
BEGIN TEXT

A. COVERAGE

AHG LAST REPORTED TO COUNCIL ON 5 APRIL;

THIS REPORT THUS CONCERNS THE END OF THE SECOND ROUND,
AS WELL AS THE FIRST THREE WEEKS OF THIS ONE.

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B. PLENARIES

NONE MARKED BY ANY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT.

LAST OF SECOND ROUND.

RECAPITULATION BY EACH SIDE OF ITS POSITION, WITHOUT ANY INDICATION OF POSSIBLE MOVEMENT.

OPENING PLENARY OF THIRD ROUND ON MAY 10

AGAIN A GENERAL PRESENTATION BY EACH SIDE OF THE BASES OF ITS PROPOSALS.

REFERENCE IN THE WPO STATEMENT TO THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE WARSAW PACT POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE STRESSING PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY.

SECOND PLENARY

ALLIES DID NOT SPEAK, HAVING DECIDED THAT, IF WPO INSISTED ON A PLENARY EACH WEEK, WHICH THEY DID, WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES WOULD SPEAK ON ALTERNATE OCCASIONS ONLY.

WPO STATEMENT BY MR. STRULAK CENTERING ON THE NEED FOR ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO REDUCE FROM THE OUTSET.

THIRD PLENARY

ALLIED STATEMENT DEVOTED TO NEED FOR APPROXIMATELY EQUAL RELATIONSHIP IN GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AS OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS.

EASTERN PRESENTATION, BY AMBASSADOR OESER, AGAIN A GENERAL EXPOSITION OF THE MANY REASONS FRO WHICH THEIR PROPOSAL WAS SUITED FOR ACCEPTANCE, WHILE NATO PROPOSALS WERE NOT.

ASPECTS OF WPO STATEMENTS

INSISTENCE ON REDUCTION OF ALL FROM OUTSET.

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NO INDICATIONS OF ANY FLEXIBILITY.

BASIC POSITION IS CONTENTION THAT THE PRESENT FORCE RELATIONSHIP IS A BALANCED ONE, AND THAT IN SUCH A SITUATION REDUCTIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE WITHOUT CHANGING THE PRESENT RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES IF WPO SECURITY IS TO REMAIN UNDIMINISHED.

PROMINENT AMONG SUPPORTING WPO ARGUMENTS HAS CONTINUED TO BE THAT

ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTIONS, THE ALLIED PHASING APPROACH AND LIMITATION OF REDUCTIONS TO GROUND FORCES ALL CONFER UNFAIR ADVANTAGE ON NATO.

NOTEWORTHY ALSO- THE EXPLOITATION BY EASTERN SIDE OF ITS OWN BRAND OF "CONFIDENCE" ARGUMENT.

THIS IS, AS USED BY NATO, THAT WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS, OTHER THAN THE USA, REQUIRE BEFORE REDUCING IN A SECOND PHASE, THE CONFIDENCE THAT WOULD ACCRUE TO THEM FROM USA-USSR REDUCTIONS IN A FIRST PHASE, AS WELL AS

FROM THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE COMMON CEILING CONCEPT. ARGUMENT BASED PRIMARILY ON MILITARY SECURITY.

EASTERN PARTICIPANTS HAVE NOW ARGUED THAT THEIR CONFIDENCE REQUIRES ON THE OTHER HAND THAT ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS PARTAKE IN REDUCTIONS FROM THE OUTSET. HOWEVER, ARGUMENT IS AT LEAST PARTLY BASED ON DISTRUST OF ASSURANCES SO FAR OFFERED THAT NON-USA PARTICIPANTS WILL INDEED REDUCE IN SECOND PHASE.

THIS POINT MADE NOTABLY BY THE POLISH REPRESENTATIVE AND REFLECTING CLEARLY NATIONAL PREOCCUPATIONS, IS OBVIOUSLY AIMED PRIMARILY AT THE BUNDESWEHR.

AS FINAL POINT, LESSENER INSISTENCE ON THE TIME BY WHICH REDUCTIONS SHOULD BE ACHIEVED OTHER THAN IN REFERRING TO THEIR PROPOSALS OF NOVEMBER 8.

C. INFORMAL SESSIONS

LAST OF SECOND ROUND

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DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION OF DIFFERENCES IN THE COMPOSITION OF GROUND FORCES ON EACH SIDE;

A SUBJECT TO WHICH AHG INTENDS TO RETURN IN THE CURRENT ROUND.

ONE OF THE REASON WHY THE AHG NEEDS REQUESTED GUIDANCE ON DEFINITIONS AND DATA FROM THE COUNCIL.

PROCEDURE AGREED UPON.

AHG RESOLVED THAT INFORMALS, AS MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF FURTHERING THE PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS, SHOULD BE PURSUED AT A PACE OF ONE A WEEK.

WPO HAS AGREED TO THIS.

FIRST INFORMAL SESSION OF THIS ROUND, MAY 15.

ON AGREED SUBJECT OF WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM
OUTSET.

NO SIGN OF MOVEMENT IN THE WPO POSITION.

IMPRESSION THAT PACT STONEWALLING.

WPO AGAIN EMPHASIZED NEED FOR PARTICIPATION IN REDUCTIONS
BY ALL PARTICIPANTS FROM OUTSET.

CONCERN EXPRESSED ALSO THAT ALLIED PROPOSAL WOULD ALLOW
NON-USA FORCES TO INCREASE AFTER A PHASE ONE AGREEMENT.

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0013

FROM US REP MBFR

SECOND INFORMAL SESSION, MAY 22

AHG HAD RECIEVED FROM COUNCIL ON MAY 15, GUIDANCE ON LINKAGE CONTAINED IN CM(74)30.

THANK COUNCIL.

MAY 22 INFORMAL WAS USED BY AHG FOR INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION OF ONE ELEMENT OF THIS MATERIAL - THE NON-INCREASE PROPOSAL.

IMMEDIATE REACTION OF SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES WAS ONE OF INTEREST BUT NOTING AT SAME TIME THAT THEY HAD MANY OTHER DIFFICULTIES WITH ALLIANCE POSITION

GENERAL WPO ARGUMENT ALSO THAT REFERENCES BY AHG REPRESENTATIVES TO COMMON CEILING ON GROUND FORCE MANPOWER APPEARED: (A) TO BE
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PRE-CONDITION; (B) ALLOWED THEM ALSO TO INTRODUCE SUBJECT (SUCH AS AIR AND NUCLEAR), WHICH MORE PROPERLY BELONG TO CONTEXT OF REDUCTIONS RATHER THAN ISSUE OF WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM OUTSET.

EASTERN REPS REFERRED TO THEIR OWN SYMBOLIC REDUCTION PROPOSAL IN EFFORT TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IF WESTERN PARTICIPANTS COULD AGREE TO A NON-INCREASE FORMULA, THEY COULD AGREE TO A SYMBOLIC REDUCTION.

THIRD INFORMAL SESSION, MAY 28

THE AHG REPRESENTATIVES HAVE REBUTTED THIS LINE OF ARGUMENT BY REITERATING REASONS WHY SYMBOLIC REDUCTION FORMULA IS UNACCEPTABLE. THIS WAS DONE IN COURSE OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF ALLIANCE POSITION ON THE NON-INCREASE FORMULA.

AHG REPS HOWEVER, FIRST SOUGHT TO REFOCUS DISCUSSION IN A MORE CONCENTRATED WAY ON THE TOPIC OF WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET. FOLLOWING PROVISOS WERE MADE BY AHG REPS:

APPROACH WAS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO OTHER ASPECTS OF PROGRAMME OF EACH SIDE;

DISCUSSION ON PHASING WOULD BE EXPECTED TO REACH NO MORE THAN TENTATIVE CONCLUSION BECAUSE IT WOULD BE DEPENDENT ON LATER RESOLUTION OF OTHER ISSUES;

NOTHING WAS DEFINITELY AGREED UNTIL EVERYTIHING WAS AGREED.

AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION OF NON-INCREASE FORMULA, KHLESTOV ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT MET A WPO CRITICISM (BUT ARGUED THAT EXCLUSION OF ARMAMENTS CREATED INEQUITY FOR EAST); WPO REPS RETURNED TO SYMBOLIC REDUCTION PROPOSAL ON LINES USED PRIOR TO EASTER RECESS BUT WITH ADDED INFO THAT IN NEW WPO APPROACH IT WAS NOT AUTOMATICALLY LINKED TO REMAINDER OF WPO PROGRAMME, AND ITS ACCEPTANCE WOULD NOT CREATE OBLIGATION TO PROCEED WITH THAT PROGRAMME.

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KHLESTOV RAISED POSSIBILITY OF REVISION CLAUSE.

D. PUBLIC INFORMATION POSTURE

PRESS CONFERENCES AT END OF LAST ROUND (DEFER AS APPROPRIATE TO AMASSADOR QUARLES).

GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF PRESS IS THAT TALKS ARE IN STATE OF DEAD-LOCK.

WESTERN PRESS IS GENERALLY FAVOURABLE TO ALLIANCE POSITION.

E. AHG COHESION

AHG HAS CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN A HIGH DEGREE OF COHESION.

F. ASSESSMENT

IT MAY BE THAT PERIOD SUCH AS THAT UNDER REVIEW--END OF ONE ROUND AND BEGINNING OF ANOTHER--IS NOT ONE IN WHICH ONE WOULD EXPECT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS.

NEVERTHELESS, THERE DOES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN A FIRMER ADHERENCE OF THE WARSAW PACT TO ITS FORMAL POSITIONS, ALTHOUGH THEY APPEAR TO MAINTAIN INTEREST IN REACHING AGREEMENT.

INDICATIONS THAT CSCE IS GIVEN PRIORITY SIGNIFICANCE AT PRESENT TIME BY WPO.

WPO EVALUATING NEW SITUATION ARISING FROM LEADERSHIP CHANGES IS WEST. BOTH HAVE BEEN DENIED BY PACT REPS AS AFFECTING THEIR POSITION.

IT IS NOT CLEAR HOWEVER WHETHER THESE ELEMENTS ARE ACTUALLY FACTORS IN

WPO POSITION ON MBFR AND, IF SO, WHETHER THEY REFLECT A SHORT OR A LONGER TERM CHANGE.

THE AHG IS AWARE OF THE NEED TO MOVE FORWARD CAUTIOUSLY AT

A TIME WHEN OTHER SIDE MAY BE UNWILLING TO RESPOND.

ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES WILL NONETHELESS CONTINUE IN COMING
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WEEKS TO DEVELOP ALLIANCE POSITION ON BASIS OF FURTHER
GUIDANCE MADE AVAILABLE BY THE COUNCIL WITH PRIORITY EMPHASIS
ON PHASING AS THE MAIN PRESENT TACTICAL REQUIREMENT.

SUGGESTED DATE FOR NEXT AHG REPORT: 28 JUNE.
END TEXT RESOR

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